In so far as de-controlled fertilizers like Di-ammonia Phosphate, Muriate of Potash and complex fertilizer (which are combination of Nitrogen, Phosphate and Potash elements) are concerned, the responsibility for meeting the requirement is with the concerned State Governments. Reduced availability of phosphatic raw materials and intermediates in the international market has impacted indigenous production during the season. The tight availability of finished fertilizer products in the international market as well as high price has been a disincentive for import of these fertilizers by the traditional fertilizer suppliers. State Governments were advised as far back as May, 2007 to nominate a State Institutional Agency which would place firm orders for import of de-controlled fertilizer, particularly DAP to meet the assessed requirement in each State. The Government of India have arranged for imports to meet the requirement in various States. As a result, the availability in the states has been adequate to sustain sales.

The following steps have been taken by the Government to ensure adequate and timely availability of fertilizers in the country.

i. Each State Government is required to make a month-wise and company-wise supply plan for each district in the State;

ii. The subsidy is released to the fertilizer manufacturers/suppliers only on reaching the fertilizer to each District in conformity with the approved supply plan;

iii. A web based Fertilizer Monitoring System (FMS) has been introduced to direct movement of fertilizer from various ports/plants to the various Districts so as to monitor the receipts with reference to the supply plan;

iv. The freight reimbursed to urea units is being made on actual rail/road leads to ensure that there are no under recovery as far as fertilizer companies are concerned for movement and distribution of urea throughout the country; and

v. With a view to ensure availability of de-controlled phosphatic and potassic fertilizer, State Governments have been advised to identify at least one State Institutional Agency which would arrange for timely availability of these fertilizers in their respective States.

(c) The Government is in the process of finalizing a pricing policy for new investments in urea sector in order to promote investment and consequently increase the availability of urea.

(d) Pursuant to a decision taken on 12th April, 2007, the Government is in the process of reviving the closed units of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited at Gorakhpur, Ramagundam, Talcher, Sindri and Korba and those of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited at Baruni, Durgapur and Haldia subject to availability of feestock.

Rise in the prices of edible oil

*131. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether edible oil prices and palm oil prices in various parts of the country have gone up in domestic market;

(b) if so, whether the prices have gone up by Rs. 1.5 per kg for all edible oils since December, 2007 and in Mumbai local markets the palm oil prices are ruling at Rs. 525/- per *10 kg: and*

(c) if so, what steps Government proposes to take to check the rise of edible oil prices in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The comparative wholesale price position of major edible oils in Delhi market as on 05.03.2008 and 05.12.2007 is as follows:

(*Price: Rs./ per quintal*)

Name of Oil	Prices as on 05.03.2008	Prices as on 05.12.2007	Variation
Mustard Oil	8242	5676	2566
Groundnut Oil	11355	11209	146
Vanaspati	7143	5495	1648

Source: Department of Consumer Affairs.

Further, as per available information from trade sources, the wholesale price of RBD Palmolein in Mumbai has gone up from Rs. 4950/- per quintal on 04.12.2007 to Rs. 6550/- per quintal on 04.03.2008.

(c) The steps taken to check the rise in edible oil prices in the country include:

1. Import of oilseeds/edible oils except copra/coconut oil has been allowed on Open General Licence (OGL).
2. During the period beginning from August, 2006 import duties have been reduced. Import duty on crude and refined palm oil/Palmolein has been reduced from 80% to 45% and 90% to 52.5 respectively. Duty on crude and refined sunflower oil reduced from 75% to 40% and 85% to 50% respectively. Duty on crude and refined soyabean oil reduced from 45% to 40%.
3. Crude and Refined edible grade vegetable oils have been exempted from 4% SAD *w.e.f.* 1.3.2007.
4. Mandatory usage of indigenous oils in the manufacture of vanaspati has been removed by Order dated 11.02.2008.

Survey of rail routes in Rajasthan

†*132. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail routes in Rajasthan on which survey would be completed by the year 2008;

(b) the number of rail routes in the country particularly in Rajasthan, on which survey has been undertaken in Rail Budget 2007-08; and

(c) the details of the progress made so far in this regard and the target fixed to complete the work where survey has been completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) 26 Surveys in the State of Rajasthan of rail routes pertaining to new lines, gauge conversions and doublings have been completed in last three years. 6 Surveys are in progress, out of which 3 surveys are likely to be completed by December, 2008.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.